

I have worked in the media industry at a local affiliate TV news station of a major network, and I understand the impact that an owner like Sinclair Broadcasting can have on the ability of an affiliate to fulfill its community obligations of fairness and impartiality, particularly when under pressures from the owners to bend to a political view. Sinclair Broadcastings's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a step that clearly shows the dangers of media consolidation to our democratic political process.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. It is critical that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about current issues.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Best regards.